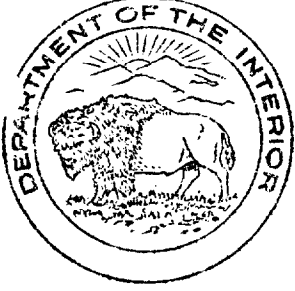


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

For Advance Release
SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 1944.

Construction of 877 new fishing vessels has been authorized by the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries during the past year to augment the U. S. fishing fleet, depleted by requisitioning of hundreds of its finest vessels for use by the Army and Navy.

Of the total number of vessels authorized between May 13, 1943 and April 30, 1944, 473 were scheduled for completion by March 31 of this year; the remainder during the balance of 1944 and the first half of 1945. Field representatives of the Coordinator's Office are now making a survey in their respective areas to check on the number of vessels actually completed on schedule.

When the authorized construction has been completed and the new boats placed in service, the U. S. fishing fleet will be approaching its normal pre-war size, officials of the Coordinator's Office said, although shortages of certain types, of vessels and in some areas may still be apparent.

Construction needed merely as replacements for vessels lost or worn out is estimated at about 275 boats a year. However, in addition to the new boats being added to the fleet, a substantial number of the vessels taken for military service have been restored to fishing or will be returned soon.

The numbers and types of fishing vessels authorized for construction in each area are as follows:

Area 1 - Washington and Oregon

- 1 Tuna Clipper
- 5 Draggers
- 54 Purse Seiners
- 6 Trawlers
- 22 Trollers
- 4 Trawlers (halibut)
- 15 Sea Skiffs
- 78 Miscellaneous
- 185

(over)

Area 2 - California

29 Tuna Clippers
1 Dragger
44 Purse Seiners
2 Trawlers
6 Trollers
6 Sea Skiffs
109 Miscellaneous
197

Area 3 - Western Gulf of Mexico (Mexican border to and including Alabama)

1 Trawler
168 Shrimp Trawlers
3 Miscellaneous
172

Area 4 - Eastern Gulf of Mexico (West coast of Florida)

5 Miscellaneous

Area 5 - South Carolina, Georgia, East Coast of Florida

1 Dragger
1 Purse Seiner
1 Trawler
74 Shrimp Trawlers
11 Sea Skiffs
5 Miscellaneous
93

Area 6 - Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

2 Draggers
3 Purse Seiners
4 Trawlers
2 Shrimp Trawlers
16 Miscellaneous
27

Area 7 - Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island

36 Draggers
7 Trawlers
1 Shrimp Trawler
6 Sea Skiffs
11 Miscellaneous
61

Area 8 - Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine

86 Draggers
17 Trawlers
10 Miscellaneous
113

Area 9 - Great Lakes

10 Miscellaneous

Area 10 - Upper Mississippi Valley

1 Miscellaneous

Area 11 - Alaska

3 Purse Seiners
1 Trawler
1 Troller
8 Miscellaneous
13

Summary by Types of Vessels, All Areas

30 Tuna Clippers
131 Draggers
105 Purse Seiners
39 Trawlers
245 Shrimp Trawlers
29 Trollers
4 Trawlers (halibut)
38 Sea Skiffs
256 Miscellaneous
877